UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Distr.

GENERAL

E/CONF.91/INF/5
22 December 1997

ENGLISH ONLY

SEVENTH UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE
ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
New York, 13-22 January 1998
Item 6(d) of the provisional agenda

TOPONYMIC DATA FILES: AUTOMATED DATA PROCESSING (ADP) SYSTEMS

The Automated Management of Geographical Names

Paper submitted by Japan

* E/CONF.91/1

97-38194

The Automated Management of Geographical Names

In line with the recent advances being made in the utilization of computer systems in government agencies and private business organizations, there are an increasing number of instances where information on geographical names are being transferred into database format and being dealt with via computer systems.

The administrative code numbers for the roughly 3,300 local government agencies in Japan are determined by the Japan Industry Standard (JIS), and widely-used database is prepared using this information, along with the administrative names.

The administrative geographical names database for each local government area is prepared by the organizations under the supervision of the Management and Coordination Agency and Ministry of Home Affairs, and these also manage such information as the classifications, names, and kana names (spelling by phonetic symbols) of the geographical name data (roughly 450,000 items). Information on the natural geographical names is transferred into database format by the Geographical Survey Institute, according to the spellings (kanji, hiragana, katakana), the hiragana names (spelling by phonetic symbols), the corresponding administrative code numbers and administrative names, and the corresponding topographical and regional maps, which are determined by the Joint Committee on the Standardization of Geographical Names.

The Geographical Survey Institute also provides the geographical name data (approx. 22,000 natural geographical names and approx. 80,000 populated area names) for the entire country, based on the 1:200,000-scale regional map standards, and it plans to publish this information in CD-ROM format in March 1998.

Furthermore, the GSI has prepared the National Geographical Names Gazetteer for Japan according to the geographical name data (roughly 5,200 items) based on the 1:1,000,000-scale international map standards in 1997.

At present, the GSI is also busy putting forward plans for a geographical name database (roughly 400,000 items) based on the 1:25,000-scale topographical map standards.

We live in an advanced information society, and in recent years there has been more of a demand for digitally map information to help hasten and spread the technological development of the Geographical Information System (GIS). The Geographical Survey Institute has been preparing the Special Data Framework, and in the present 1997, the information for the tri-metropolitan area of Tokyo-Osaka-Nagoya has nearly been completed.

As a part of this project, in order to make address matching possible, geographical name data on administrative areas and their subdivided areas (blocks, streets, wards) are transferred into polygon type data which expresses the areas of given geographical locations.